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Dr. P. Mabel Nelson

Amy Millen

Iowa State College

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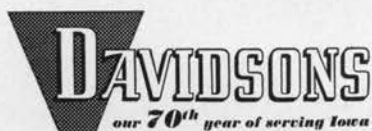
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Dr. P. Mabel Nelson, former Dean of Home Economics and staff member of Iowa State College for 33 years, is a woman with many interests and hobbies.

Collects Cookbooks

As a collector, one of her main interests is cookbooks. Among the oldest in her collection is "Lamb's Royal Cookery", which was published in 1726 and bound in calf. She has a special printing of one of the earliest cookbooks known. The original, compiled in Rome about 100 B.C., is called "Apicius," a name given to gastronomers of old Rome.

The newest book in her collection is an Eskimo cookbook prepared by the students of Shishmarif Day School, Shishmarif, Alaska. It is probably the only Eskimo cookbook written and contains such delicacies as seal, bear and walrus meat.

Many of her cookbooks were obtained on trips. Included in the collection is one book written in Japanese, one in Swedish and one by Gipsy Petulengro, 1936, entitled, "Romany Recipes and Remedies."

Miss Nelson has traveled extensively. She has visited all of the United States, been through the Panama Canal, seen Alaska, Europe, Guatemala, Mexico and taken a Caribbean cruise.

Introduced Food Majors

She came to Iowa State College in 1923 and became head of the Food and Nutrition Department in 1926. Miss Nelson remained in this position for 18 years, during which time she introduced the four majors in the department and established departmental research. She strongly supported the policy that dietetic majors take one year of internship after

Dr. P. Mabel Nelson

"A clipper, a collector,
an organizer of facts"

by Amy Millen

Technical Journalism Senior

graduation from college, and she promoted good working relationships between the department and the American Dietetic Association.

Miss Nelson is a member of Alpha Nu, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Sigma Delta Epsilon, Iota Sigma Pi, American Institute of Nutrition and Mortar Board. She is now a member of the General Centennial Committee and the Long Range Campus Planning Committee at Iowa State.

She has written a number of articles for national publications and has compiled material for many articles which have been published in home economics and science journals.

Miss Nelson was instrumental in the granting of Ph.D.'s in Food and Nutrition. "A clipper, a collector, a digger of facts, an organizer with vision, Dr. Nelson left a substantial heritage to the Food and Nutrition Department." This statement was made by Dr. Ercel Eppright, present head of the Food and Nutrition Department.

Advises Freshmen

Freshmen women are especially liked by Miss Nelson and when she retired as dean, she asked to teach them. She has been an advisor to freshmen and instructor of Home Economics 105, the freshman orientation course.

Miss Nelson could always be recognized driving a 1939 clover-leaf green Chevrolet. She called the car "Chapul-tepec" and "Mikinac." The Spanish names originated when she was learning to drive. "Chapul-tepec," meaning grasshopper, stood for the times when the car jumped in starting and "Mickinac," meaning turtle, represented the long period spent driving at a very slow speed. It broke her heart to sell that car, but she can now be seen driving a new green and white "Chevie" in its place.

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